

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 AID-05 CU-02 /075 W

-----161001Z 060494 /10

P R 160845Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6277

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 KUALA LUMPUR 1091

CINAPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, PGOV, MY

SUBJECT: RECENT UMNO DEVELOPMENTS

REF: (A) KUALA LUMPUR 1028 (DTG 140828Z FEB 77),

(B) KUALA LUMPUR 848 (DTG 080148Z FEB 77),

(C) KUALA LUMPUR 923 (DTG 090 0823Z FEB 77)

1. SUMMARY. ON FEB 14, UMNO YOUTH UNANIMOUSLY CALLED FOR THE EXPULSION OF RECENTLY CONFESSED PRO-COMMUNIST UMNO MEMBERS FROM THE PARTY AND URGED REINSTATEMENT OF FORMER YOUTH LEADER DATUK HARUN IDRIS, WHO HAS BEEN CONVICTED  
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OF CORRUPTION, TO BOTH HIS PARTY AND SELANGOR GOVERNMENT POSITIONS. CALL WAS LARGELY BASED ON ALLEGED UNDERMINING OF HARUN'S POSITION BY THE TWO DETAINED EX-DEPUTY MINISTERS. IN A DIFFERENT VENUE, PRIMARY INDUSTRY MINISTER MUSA HITAM WARNED AGAINST THE DANGEROUS CONTEST FOR INFLUENCE WITHIN THE PARTY AND URGED UMNO MEMBERS TO LINE UP BEHIND TRADITIONAL LEADERS,

I.E., PRIME MINISTER HUSSEIN AND DEPUTY MP MAHATHIR. HUSSEIN WAS OUT OF THE COUNTRY WHEN THE DEMAND WAS MADE AND MAHATHIR, ONE OF THE TARGETS OF REBELLOIUS RIGHT-WING FACTIONS, HAS WISELHY NOSH COMMENTED. WHEN RE RETURNS, THE PM IS LIKELY TO AGREE THAT THE CONFESSED COMMUNISTS SHOULD RESIGN FROM PARTY AND PARLIAMENT BUT IT IS DIFFICULT TO SAY, GIVEN HIS PAST AVOIDANCE OF UMNO PARTY FRAYS, WHAT HE WILL DO TO REINFORCE HIS OWN AND MAHATHIR'S AUTHORITY. END SUMMARY.

2. FURTHER TO REF B, UMNO YOUTH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MET FEB 14 TO DISCUSS IMPLICATIONS OF RECENTLY BROADCAST CONFESSIONS BY THREE PROMINENT NATIONAL FRONT POLITICIANS OF THEIR INVOLVEMENT IN PRO-COMMUNIST ACTIVITIES. FOLLOWING THE MEETING, ACTING UMNO YOUTH HEAD HAJI SUHAIMI TOLD NEWSMEN THAT THE COMMITTEE HAD DECIDED "UNANIMOUSLY" TO CALL FOR THE EXPULSION OF FORMER UMNO DEPUTY MINISTERS DATUK ABDULLAH AHMAD AND ABDULLAH MAJID FROM THE PARTY AND PARLIAMENT, AND TO URGE THE GOVERNMENT TO DECLEAR PERSONA NON GRATA THOSE OFFICIALS OF THE UNNAMED FOREIGN MISSION HERE (I.E., SOVIET EMBASSY) WHO HAD INTERFERED IN MALAYSIA'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS. REFERRING TO THE FEB 4 REPORT BY INSPECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE HANIFF OMAR WHO STATED THAT ABDULLAH AHMAD AND ABDULLAH MAJID "WERE TRYING TO WEAKEN THE SPIRIT OF AN ANTI-COMMUNIST INDIVIDUAL," SUHAIMI ASSERTED THAT FORMER UMNO YOUTH CHIEF AND SELANGOR

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POLITICAL BOSS DATUK HARUN DDRIS WAS THE PERSON MEANT. HARUN'S PRESENT SITUATION, SUHAIMI DECLARED WITHOUT REFERENCE TO THE FACT THAT THE SELANGOR STRONGMAN HAS BEEN CONVICTED IN TWO COURTS OF LAW, IS THE RESULT OF A COMMUNIST "GRAND DESIGN" INITIATED BY THE TWO ABDULLAHS TO "DESTROY AND HUMILIATE" HARUN CREATE DISSENSION WITHIN UMNO, AND DISRUPT RELATIONS BETWEEN UMNO AND THE CONSERVATIVE ISLAMIC PARTY (PAS). DECLARING THAT MATTERS HAD NOW "COME TO A CRUNCH", SUHAIMI SAID THE COMMITTEE HAD DECIDED TO APPEAL TO THE PRIME MINISTER, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER, AND OTHER GOVERNMENT AND PARTY LEADERS TO REMOVE ALL OBSTACLES TO HARUN'S FULL PARTICIPATION IN POLITICS; TO "BRING HIM BACK" FOR THE SAKE OF PARTY UNITY.

3. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING FOLLOWED SPECIAL MEETING FEB 13 OF SOME 1,500 SELANGOR UMNO YOUTH DELEGATES WHO REPORTEDLY URGED SUBMISSION OF A MEMORANDUM TO DATUK HUSSEIN ONN CALLING FOR A

"COMPROMISE SOLUTION" THAT WOULD ENABLE DATUK HARUN (WHO IS APPEALING HIS CONVICTIONS) TO RETURN TO ALL HIS FORMER POLITICAL POSTS.

4. ADDRESSING A SEPARATE UMNO FUNCTION FEB 13, DATUK MUSA HITAM (MINISTER OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND A MEJOR YOUNGER PARTY FIGURE) DECREIED WHAT HE VIEWED AS A DANGEROUS CONTEST FOR INFLUENCE WHICH WAS "PICKING UP" AND WHICH "COULD TURN DIRTY." HE URGED UMNO MEMBERS TO "ACCEPT AND STRENGTHEN PARTY'S TRADITIONAL PROCESS BY SUPPORTING THE TWO LEADERS WHO HAVE ASSUMED THE POSTS OF PRIME MINISTER AND DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER," NOTING THAT NEITHER DATUK HUSSEIN ONN OR DR. MAHATHIR HAD BEEN CONFIRMED IN POSTS AS PRESIDENT AND DEPUTY PRESIDENT OF UMNO, RESPECTIVELY. THIS WAS HIS" PERSONAL APPEAL AND OPINION," HE ADDED.  
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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01  
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 OMB-01 AID-05 CU-02 /075 W  
-----161000Z 060406 /10

P R 160845Z FEB 77  
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 KUALA LUMPUR 1091

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

5. COMMENT: SUHAIMI IS NOT A PERSON WHO ACTS ON HIS OWN AND IT CAN BE ASSUMED THAT THE MAN REALLY PULLING THE STRINGS IS HARUN HIMSELF. HELP IS ALSO COMING FROM THE RIGHT-WING TUNKU ELEMENT THROUGH KHIR JOHARI'S NEW DAILY "WATAN," WHICH HAS PUBLISHED A SERIES OF SENSATIONAL REPORTS NOT COVERED BY OTHER PAPERS. SOMEWHERE IN THE BACKGROUND ALSO ARE TUN MUSTAPHA AND DATUK DZULKIFLI OF THE UNITED SABAH NATIONAL ORGANIZATION WHO HAVE ENLISTED THE SUPPORT OF UMNO YOUTH IN THEIR ATTACK ON BERJAYA AND, IN EFFECT, ON THE NATIONAL FRONT LEADERSHIP OVER THE KIMANIS BY-ELECTION. (A NATIONAL FRONT-ENDORSED CONFIDENTIAL

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USNO CANDIDATE WAS DEFEATED BY A BERJAYA-BACKED INDEPENDENT IN A JANUARY 29 PARLIAMENTARY BY-ELECTION AT KIMANIS IN SABAH.) IT REMAINS A FACT, HOWEVER, THAT THESE ARE ALLIANCES OF CONVENIENCE AND THAT SHOULD THE PRESENT LEADERSHIP OF DATUK HUSSEIN AND DR. MAHATHIR DISAPPEAR TODAY'S ALLIES WOULD FALL TO FIGHTING AMONG THEMSELVES.

6. IT SEEMS DOUBTFUL THAT SUHAIMI AND HARUN WOULD HAVE HAD THE NERVE TO PUBLICIZE THEIR PROVOCATIVE STATEMENT HAD THE PRIME MINISTER NOT BEEN AWAY IN TURKEY AND IRAQ. IT WILL BE INTERESTING TO SEE WHAT HUSSEIN DOES ABOUT THIS WHEN HE GETS BACK HERE FEB 18. (MAHATHIR, WHO IS ACTING PM IN HIS ABSENCE, HAS WISELY REFRAINED FROM COMMENT SINCE HE AND FINANCE MINISTER RAZALEIGH ARE SECONDARY TARGETS.) WE SUSPECT THE PM WILL AGREE THAT IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE FOR THE TWO DOLLAHS TO RESIGN BOTH FROM PARTY AND PARLIAMENT, POINTING OUT THAT IF HARUN WISHES HIS UMNO YOUTH POST BACK HE CAN RUN FOR ELECTION AT THE ORGANIZATION'S ASSEMBLY IN 1978. IT DOES NOT SEEM LIKELY, HOWEVER, THAT HUSSEIN WOULD ACQUIESCE TO HARUN'S RESUMPTION OF HIS CHIEF MINISTERSHIP BECAUSE HIM CONVICTIONS BAR HIM FROM SUCH A POSITION. HUSSEIN'S GROWING RELIANCE ON MAHATHIR HAS BEEN UNDERSCORED BY THE LATTER'S ASSIGNMENT TO THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF SUCH KEY AD HOC BODIES AS THE INVESTMENT COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE TO PREPARE AN ALTERNATIVE TO THE IBRAHIM ALI REPORT. PRESUMABLY HE WILL WANT TO TAKE

STEPS TO REINFORCE THE DEPUTY PM'S POSITION IN  
ADDITION TO THE PLEA FOR INTERNAL HARMONY  
MADE BY MUSA HITAM. WHAT THESE STEPS WILL BE  
IS NOT EASY TO GUESS IN VIEW OF THE PM'S PAST  
REMOTENESS FROM INTERNAL PARTY POLITICS.  
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## Message Attributes

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